Functioning of Regional Provident Fund Commissioners

1341. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of each of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in order to improve the service to PF subscribers and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints/reports about their non-performance in the disposal of annual statement of accounts of PF subscribers and if so, the details thereof, and the action taken thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the functioning of Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in the light of the introduction of new Pension Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The functioning of the offices of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners is reviewed by the Central Office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation every year and deficiencies wherever observed, are brought to the notice of the concerned Regional Commissioner for rectification/improvement.

(b) and (c) There have been complaints of general nature regarding delay in issue of annual statement of accounts. In order to provide prompt service to the E.P.F subscribers and streamlining the accounting procedure, a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central action plan covering substantial areas of work has also been initiated for improving the system's efficiency and effectiveness. Regional Provident Fund Commissioners have also been provided an orientation training for ensuring effective implementation of the Pension Scheme.

Pension Scheme for Labourers

1342. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 107 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1995 and state:

(a) the number of discussions held between Government and representatives of trade unions on the pension scheme launched for the benefit of labour employees;

(b) what are the details of each meeting held and views expressed by trade unions on the scheme;

(c) what steps Government have taken to resolve the difference, if any, on the issue;

(d) whether any concrete proposals have been received about the scheme from other sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (e) The Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 has been evolved by the Central Board of Trustees on which, besides others, Central Trade Union Organisations are also represented. Even after the Scheme was recommended by the Central Board of Trustees, a wider consultation with the Central Trade Union Organisations has taken place twice on 10.11.95 and 25.11.95 This is apart from two discussions with Central Board of Trustees of Employees Provident Fund Organisations in which Central Trade Unions also are represented. All the Central Trade Union Organisations except CITU and UTUC (LS) have generally supported the Pension Scheme with some suggestions for making improvements. These suggestions would be examined with a view to finding out if it would be possible to make any improvement in the Scheme without affecting its economic sustainability. Besides other suggestions CITU has suggested that pension should be given as